

98 Adverbs of manner

Words such as “quietly” and “loudly” are adverbs. They describe and give more information about verbs, adjectives, phrases, and other adverbs.

See also:
Adjectives 92
Gradable and non-gradable adjectives 93

98.1 ADVERBS OF MANNER

Adverbs of manner describe the way something is done. They usually come after the verb they describe.

“Quietly” describes how I speak.

I speak **quietly**.

“Loudly” describes how he speaks.

He speaks **loudly**.

Hello.

HELLO!

98.2 HOW TO FORM

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding “-ly” to the adjective. If the adjective ends in “-y,” the “-y” is left out and “-ily” is added to make the adverb.

bad
↓
badly

careful
↓
carefully

easy
↓
easily

The “-y” is dropped. “-ily” is added.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

A tortoise moves **slowly**.



Horses can run **quickly**.



She sings **beautifully**.



I can play the piano **badly**.



My dad sneezes **noisily**.



My sister dresses **stylishly**.



98.3 IRREGULAR ADVERBS OF MANNER

Some adverbs aren't formed by adding "-ly" to the adjective.

good

↓
well

The adverb is totally different from the adjective.

straight

↓
straight

The adverb is the same as the adjective.

early

↓
early

Adjectives ending "-ly" don't change to become adverbs.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's dangerous to drive **fast**.



The job didn't last **long**.



Kris often arrives **late**.



Jon always studies **hard**.



98.4 ADVERBS WITH THE SAME FORM AS ADJECTIVES

Some adjectives have more than one meaning. In these cases, the equivalent adverb is often formed differently depending on the meaning of the adjective.

This means "small."

Chop the onion into **fine** pieces.

↓
Chop it **finely**.

The adverb is formed in the usual way by adding "-ly" to the adjective. "Fine" is incorrect here.

This means "good."

I'm **fine**.

↓
I'm doing **fine**.

The adverb has the same form as the adjective. "Finely" is incorrect here.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's **free** for children.

↓
Children are admitted **free**.

We advocate **free** speech.

↓
You can speak **freely**.

99 Comparative and superlative adverbs

Adverbs have comparative forms to compare or show differences. They also have superlative forms to talk about extremes.

See also:

Adjectives 92 Comparative adjectives 94

Superlative adjectives 97 Adverbs of manner 98

99.1 REGULAR COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

Most **comparative** adverbs are formed using "more" or "less."

COMPARATIVE

Karen eats **more quickly** than Tim.

Tim eats **less quickly** than Sarah.



Most **superlative** adverbs are formed using "most" or "least."

SUPERLATIVE

Carmen cooks the **most frequently**.

Bob cooks the **least frequently**.



99.2 IRREGULAR COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

"Well" and "badly" have the same comparative and superlative forms as their corresponding adjectives, "good" and "bad." They are both irregular.

ADJECTIVE

ADVERB

COMPARATIVE

SUPERLATIVE

good



well



better



best

bad



badly



worse



worst

99.3 SHORT COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

For some shorter adverbs, the comparative or superlative adjective is sometimes used as the comparative or superlative adverb.



COMPARATIVE

My dog moves **slower** / **more slowly** than my cat.

Both are correct.

SUPERLATIVE

My tortoise moves the **slowest** / **most slowly**.

Both are correct.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

My sister always runs **faster** than me.



My sister can run fast, but our brother runs **the fastest**.



I got to work **earlier** than everyone else today.



I always arrive **the earliest** when I cycle, as I beat the traffic.



I'm training **harder** than my friend for the judo competition.



This is **the hardest** I've ever trained for a competition.



99.4 COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

Adverbs that have the same form as an adjective can only become comparative and superlative adverbs by adding "-er" and "-est."

COMPARATIVE

My colleague always works **later** than me.



SUPERLATIVE

My boss always stays **the latest**.

100 Adverbs of degree

Adverbs of degree can be placed in front of adjectives and verbs to strengthen or weaken their original meaning. Some adverbs can only be paired with certain adjectives.

See also:

Adjectives 92

Gradable and non-gradable adjectives 93

100.1 GRADING ADVERBS

Adverbs that can be used with gradable adjectives are called grading adverbs. They can be used to make an adjective's meaning stronger or weaker.

TIP

Gradable adjectives are adjectives which can be made weaker or stronger by adverbs.



This book is **very**
extremely
really
remarkably interesting.



This book is **fairly**
quite
slightly interesting.



This book is **not very**
barely
not particularly interesting.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

My brother is **extremely** talented.



That discussion was **fairly** heated.



The sunset was **remarkably** pretty.



I'm feeling **slightly** unwell.



This TV show is **not very** exciting.



I'm **not particularly** happy about this.



100.2 NON-GRADING ADVERBS

Some adverbs can be used to qualify non-gradable adjectives. These are called “non-grading adverbs,” and often mean “entirely” or “almost entirely.” They cannot usually be used with gradable adjectives.

TIP

Non-gradable adjectives are adjectives which cannot usually be modified.

Her presentation was **absolutely** awful!



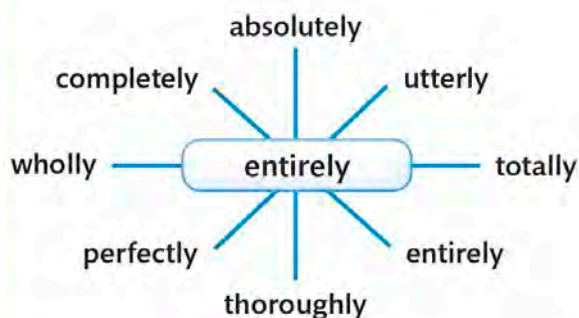
She has a **totally** unique presenting style.



She had a **completely** American audience.



COMMON NON-GRADING ADVERBS



FURTHER EXAMPLES

The rain is **utterly** torrential.



Our trip was **totally** awesome.



My twin sons are **entirely** identical.



Your answers were **perfectly** correct.



This class is **essentially** pointless.



The weather's **almost** perfect.



This test is **practically** impossible.



I've **virtually** finished my work.



100.3 "REALLY," "FAIRLY," AND "PRETTY"

A few adverbs can be used with both gradable and non-gradable adjectives. They are "really" (meaning "very much"), and "pretty" and "fairly" (both meaning "quite a lot, but not very").

What you need is a **really** { **good**
great } idea.

Gradable

Non-gradable



You need to be **fairly** { **confident**
certain } it works.



Inventing a new product is **pretty** { **difficult**
impossible }.



100.4 "QUITE"

"Quite" can be used with both gradable and non-gradable adjectives. In US English, it usually means "very." In UK English, it weakens gradable adjectives to mean "not very," but strengthens non-gradable adjectives to mean "very" or "completely."

Her invention is **quite incredible**.

[Her invention is absolutely fantastic.]

Her idea was **quite good**.

[Her idea was really good. (US)]

[Her idea was good, but not great. (UK)]



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I proposed to my husband.
It was **quite perfect**.



I find it **quite necessary** to
shower after exercise.



I was **quite upset** when
I lost my pet rabbit.



It can be **quite difficult** to adjust
when you move abroad.





COMMON MISTAKES GRADING AND NON-GRADING ADVERBS

Only grading adverbs can be used with gradable adjectives, and only non-grading adverbs can be used with non-gradable adjectives.

GRADING ADVERBS

This book is **very good**. ✓

This book is **absolutely good**. ✗

NON-GRADING ADVERBS

The plot is **very great**. ✗

The plot is **absolutely great**. ✓

100.5 USING ADVERBS OF DEGREE TO DESCRIBE VERBS

"Quite," "really," and "absolutely" can be used to modify verbs. These modifying words must go before the verb.

In UK English "quite" doesn't have as strong an emphasis as "really." In US English the emphasis is stronger.

I **quite enjoy** cycling.

"Quite" can be used before "enjoy" and "like."



"Really" is used to mean "a lot more."

I **really like** cycling.

"Really" can be used before "like," "love," "enjoy," "don't like," and "hate."



"Absolutely" is used in extreme forms.

I **absolutely love** cycling.

"Absolutely" can be used before "love" and "hate."



FURTHER EXAMPLES

He **quite likes** playing tennis.



I **really don't like** cooking.



He **really loves** eating cake.



She **really hates** waking up early.



She **really enjoys** playing guitar.



They **absolutely hate** singing.



101 Adverbs of time

Adverbs of time are used to give more precise information about exactly when something happens. They can also refer to a continuing event or action.

See also:

Present continuous 4

Past perfect simple 11

101.1 "JUST" AND "ABOUT TO"

These adverbs give more information about when or if an action happened.

Means something has happened very recently.

Tom has **just** arrived home and he's **about to** go to bed.

Means something will happen very soon.



RECENT PAST



NOW



NEAR FUTURE

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I've **just** called a cab. It should be here soon.



I'm on my way. I've **just** finished packing my suitcase.



I was going to have a meal at the airport, but the plane has **just** arrived.



The flight attendant is **about to** bring us food.



The plane is **about to** land. We must fasten our seat belts.



I'm **about to** book a table for tonight. How many of us are there?



101.2 "ALREADY" AND "YET"

"Already" is used when something has happened, usually sooner than expected. "Yet" means "until now." It shows that something hasn't happened, but it will happen in the future.

Means something has happened.

The show has **already** started, but we haven't arrived **yet**.

Means "until now."



FURTHER EXAMPLES

What time is Andrew going to get here?



He's **already** arrived.



Has Rob cooked the dinner?



No, not **yet**.



Have you booked the taxi?



No, I haven't called them **yet**.



I'll order the pizzas now.



It's OK. I've **already** ordered them.



101.3 "STILL"

The adverb "still" means an action or situation is ongoing.

I'm **still** watering the flowers.



PAST

NOW

FURTHER EXAMPLES



I'm **still** working. I won't finish until 7 tonight.



The shop is **still** open. Let's go in before it closes.



The phone is **still** ringing. Will someone answer it?



We **still** live in the same house, but it's too small for us now.

Adverbs of frequency

Adverbs of frequency show how often something is done, from something done very frequently ("always") to something not done at all ("never").

See also:

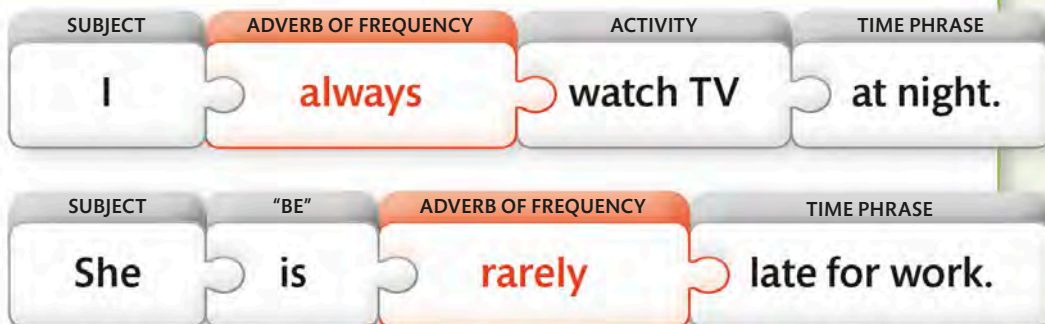
Forming questions 34

102.1 ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY



HOW TO FORM

Adverbs of frequency usually go between the subject and the main verb. The time phrase usually goes at the end of the sentence.



102.2 ADVERBS AND EXPRESSIONS OF FREQUENCY

Frequency can also be described with more precise expressions.
Unlike adverbs of frequency, these must sit at the end of a phrase.



The adverb of frequency
usually goes before the verb.

I { **often**
regularly
hardly ever } go running.

Precise frequency expressions
usually go at the end of a phrase.

I go running { **five times a week.**
every Tuesday.
once a year. }

102.3 QUESTIONS ABOUT FREQUENCY

"How often" is used to ask about how often someone does an activity.
"When" is used to ask about the day or time it is done.

How often do you go away?



I usually go away
once a year.

When do you go running?



I go on Thursday nights.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

How often do you go to the beach?



Not very often.

How often do you see your friends?



All the time.

When do you go to the gym?



On Tuesdays and Fridays.

When does your family eat dinner?



At 6pm every evening.

103 "So" and "such"

"So" and "such" are adverbs which can be used with certain words to add emphasis. They are similar in meaning, but they are used in different structures.

See also:

Adjectives **92** Comparative adjectives **94** Adverbs of manner **98** Comparative and superlative adverbs **99**

103.1 "SO" AND "SUCH"

Unlike most adverbs, "such" can be used before a noun to add emphasis. It can also be used before an adjective and noun combination.

"SUCH" + "A / AN" + NOUN

The trial was **such** a success.



"SUCH" + "A / AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

It was **such** an important experiment.



TIP

"Such" + "a / an" is more common with extreme nouns rather than neutral ones.

"So" can be used before an adjective or an adverb to add emphasis.

"SO" + ADJECTIVE

The reaction is **so** dangerous.



"SO" + ADVERB

The surgery went **so** well!



TIP

"So" is never used on its own before comparative words.

"So much" is used before a comparative adjective or a comparative adverb to add stronger emphasis.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE

This hospital is **so much** cleaner than that other one.



"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB

Diseases spread **so much** faster as a result of air travel.



103.2 "SO" AND "SUCH" WITH "THAT"

"That" can be used with "so" and "such" to introduce a particular result caused by the fact being emphasized.

"SUCH" + "A / AN" + NOUN + "THAT"

The disease is **such** a mystery **that** it doesn't even have a name yet.



"SUCH" + "A / AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN + "THAT"

This is **such** a strange injury **that** it is hard to diagnose.



"SO" + ADJECTIVE + "THAT"

Medical research is **so** expensive **that** drugs are often costly.



"SO" + ADVERB + "THAT"

He recovered **so** quickly **that** he was able to go home the next day.



"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE + "THAT"

The new treatment was **so much** more effective **that** he felt better the same day.



"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB + "THAT"

Hospitals are now being built **so much** more quickly **that** more people can be treated.



104 “Enough” and “too”

“Enough” is used when there is the correct degree or amount of something. “Too” is used when something is more than necessary or wanted.

See also:

Countable and uncountable nouns 70

Adjectives 92 Adverbs of manner 98

104.1 ADJECTIVE / ADVERB + “ENOUGH”

“Enough” can be used after an adjective or adverb to show that it’s the right degree.

ADJECTIVE + ENOUGH

This house is **big enough** for us.



ADVERB + ENOUGH



She isn’t speaking **loudly enough**. I can’t hear her.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



This food isn’t **hot enough** to eat.



My bag is **big enough** for my books.



The traffic isn’t moving **quickly enough**.



I didn’t read the instructions **carefully enough**.

104.2 NOUN + “ENOUGH”

“Enough” and “not enough” can be used to talk about quantities of countable and uncountable nouns. “Enough” comes before the noun.

Do we have **enough balloons**?

Balloons are countable.



We only have two. That’s **not enough**.

“Enough” can also be used without a noun.

Do we have **enough food**?

Food is uncountable.



We have these snacks. That’ll be **enough**.



104.3 "TOO" + ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

"Too" can be used before an adjective or adverb to show that it's more than enough.

TOO + ADJECTIVE

That meal was **too big**. I'm so full.



TOO + ADVERB

This bus is going **too slowly**. I'm going to be late.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Far" and "much" can be used before "too" for emphasis.



In winter my house is far **too cold**.



Jo takes her job much **too seriously**.



My coat is **too big** for me.



Jessica talks far **too quietly**.



Don't go swimming in the lake. It's **too dangerous**.



I'm never on time for work. I always wake up **too late**.

104.4 "ENOUGH" AND "TOO" WITH AN INFINITIVE CLAUSE

In English, "enough" and "too" are used with infinitive clauses. They state whether something is to the right degree or extent for the infinitive clause to happen.

Is this mango ripe **enough** to eat?



Yes, it's ripe **enough** to eat.



No, it's **not** ripe **enough** to eat.



No, it's **too** ripe to eat.

